



First Sunday after Christmas
29 December 2024

“Searching for wisdom”



Minister: Rev David Dawes

Music: Rhys Boak (Organ)

Cantor: Cailin Howarth

Welcome to St Michael's

St Michael's is a vibrant, progressive, inclusive church with a long tradition of nurturing the spiritual well-being of the human person and working for the common good.

As a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia, we are committed to the Covenant with First Peoples and to social and ecological justice. We hold foundational Christian values of the worth of every human being, the need for integrity in public life, and concern for the welfare of the planet and its peoples, irrespective of race, creed, gender, sexuality, status, or age.

Minister

Rev Dr Margaret Mayman

Church Council

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Val Gill

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Chair: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy: Catherine Jones

Mission Coordinating

Chair: Ann Kinnear

Jess Hand

Chris Phillips

Organist & Manager of Music

Rhys Boak

Church Office

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Processional

Acknowledgement of Country

The land on which St Michael's stands
is the sovereign and unceded country
of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

***We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present,
who have cared for this country for millennia.***

***We join with Aboriginal people in yearning for justice;
for Indigenous people and for the land.***

Welcome & Gathering

*Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,
wherever you've come from, wherever you're going to,
whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe,
you are welcome.*

Hymn

Joy to the world



Joy to the world! The promised one
has come shalom to bring;
let ev'ry heart prepare a room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Graceful and true, the Saviour rules,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of the ways of peace,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders of God's love,
and wonders, wonders of God's love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: Antioch

Arranged from G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Prayer of Awareness

Jesus' Prayer

*Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.
May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the common processes of the earth.
Give us what we need,
day by day, to keep body and soul together,
because clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.
We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings,
putting hate and bitterness behind us.
We are torn between our faith in your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.
Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is, Amen.*

Sharing a Sign of Peace

May the Light and Peace of Divine Presence be with you.

And also with you.

Music for contemplation

'The old year has passed' BWV 614 – J.S. Bach
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 148

Chris Phillips (they/them)

For the wisdom of our ancestors in faith,
We give thanks.

Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52

For the life and teaching of Jesus,
We give thanks.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City



Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, despised and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) alt

Tune: Irby

H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) and A.H. Mann (1850-1929)

Descant: Rhys Boak

Contemporary Reading

“A Blessing for Prescence” by John O’Donohue

For the Spirit speaking still,

We give thanks.

Reflection

Rev David Dawes

“Searching for wisdom”

Hymn

Silent night



Silent night, holy night:
all is calm, all is bright.
Round the virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night:
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, 'Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.'

Silent night, holy night:
wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing
Alleluia, praises ring!
Christ our Saviour is born,
Christ our Saviour is born.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
Trans. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
Tune: Silent Night. Franz Xaver Gruber. (1787-1863)

Prayers of the people

In thanksgiving and solidarity

*In silence we pray for the needs of the world,
for those we know and love,
and for ourselves.*

These are our prayers for people and for our planet:

***We move on in faith,
into the unknown,
in the company of the God made known in Jesus,
who illumines the Way.
Amen.***

Invitation to Offering

Music for contemplation

'Behold a rose is blooming' – Johannes Brahms
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Offering Prayer

*In gratitude for the blessings in our lives,
we bring what we have to offer.*

*May our gifts bring hope to others, in this act and
in our commitment to cherish and honour all of life.*

Amen.

Notices

Chris Phillips (they/them)

Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O come, all ye faithful'. It consists of four staves of music, all in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff is a piano accompaniment, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third and fourth staves are also piano accompaniment, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music is written in a simple, clear style, with notes and rests clearly visible. There are some slurs and accents in the vocal line, and some dotted lines in the piano accompaniment.

O come, all ye faithful
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold the
fond desire of nations

*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in expectation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!
*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Yes, child, we'll greet you,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to you be all glory given.
Word of creation,
now in flesh appearing.
*O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration, Christ is born.*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Tune: Adeste Fideles

Later form of melody, probably by
John Francis Wade (c.1711-1786)

Descant: Rhys Boak

Blessing and Sung Amen

May the boldness of the Spirit transform us
May the compassion of Jesus inspire us
May the gifts of Sacred creativity sustain us
so that we may join in transforming the world
for love and justice.

May the blessing of God be with us
and with all creation, now and forever.

Postlude

Carillon de Westminster from 24 Fantasy Pieces – Louis Vierne
Rhys Boak (Organ)

Acknowledgements

Photograph by David Dawes.

“A Blessing for Prescence” by John O’Donohue.
From *Eternal Echoes* p. 139

Jesus’ Prayer. “Lord’s Prayer: An interpretation” by Jim Burklo.
<https://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2012/12/jim-burklos-book-of-common-prayer.html>

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Music Notes

'The old year has passed' BWV 614 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

This short work comes from Bach’s Little organ book and is based on a hymn which features the text; *‘The old year now hath passed away, We thank Thee, O our God, today, That Thou hast kept us through the year, When danger and distress were near.’*

Rhys Boak (Organ)

'Behold a rose is blooming' – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Over the centuries, the image of a rose blooming is used as a metaphor for the birth and life of Jesus. At the end of his life, the German composer Johannes Brahms composed a set of 11 short works for organ from which this is drawn. It is based on the well-known carol melody, sometimes also known as ‘A great and mighty wonder’.

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Carillon de Westminster from 24 Fantasy Pieces

– Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Composed by the famous blind organist of Notre Dame de Paris, Louis Vierne, the Carillon de Westminster is a fantasia on the theme played by London’s famous Big Ben. The piece invokes the movement of the clock, passage through time, the swirling activity of modern city life, and how we are caught up in the ceaseless motion of the universe. Interestingly, the recently re-opened and much celebrated grand organ of Notre Dame de Paris was opened in 1867, making it one year younger than the organ of St Michael’s (1866).

Rhys Boak (Organ)

Musicians

You can find biographical profiles of St Michael's Guest Musicians on our website. stmichaels.org.au/musicians-bios

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